Handbook for Family and Friends

PCON – stands for "Protective Control." An inmate housed in Protective Control is separated from the general population for his or her safety. An inmate may request protective custody, but a committee decides if protective custody is necessary.

Probation – a sentence ordered by the Court allowing an offender to remain in the community with supervision and guidance of a Probation Officer, under such conditions as the Court may impose. If an offender does not follow the conditions of the probation, he or she can be put in prison.

Processing – when an offender first arrives in prison, the first few weeks are spent at a diagnostic center to best determine the needs and assignment of the offender. This time spent in diagnostic centers is called processing.

Projected Release Date – the estimated date of release that is based on any time credits that the inmate has earned or is projected to earn until the time of his/her release. The projected release date is always subject to change depending on whether or not the inmate earns or loses time credits.

Region Director – a person who is in charge of several prison facilities in a region. The Division of Prisons has five regions: Central, South Central, Eastern, Western, and Piedmont.

Regular Population – housing assignment at the prison facilities where inmates may move about the prison facility as needed due to their job or program assignment, recreation, or mealtime with other inmates, It is also known as "general population."

Restitution – required payments that are authorized by the courts to be paid by an offender to the victim of his or her crime.

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